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# **News Release**

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## **VA Awards Recovery Act Funds for Renewable Energy Project *Dublin (Ga.) VA Medical Center Installs Solar Cell System***

WASHINGTON – In support of ongoing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a \$1.1 million contract to build a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

“We are investing in clean energy and other renewable energy projects for our medical centers to reduce our environmental footprint,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “The transition to these renewable energy sources helps VA continue to be a leading example of ‘going green’ in the federal government.”

The facility will install a 185-kilowatt solar PV system, estimated to produce up to two percent of its annual electricity usage. The installation is planned to be completed by January 2011. VA selected this site based on results from feasibility studies that were performed to determine the ideal locations to invest in on-site renewable energy projects.

VA’s goal is to increase renewable energy consumption to 15 percent of annual electricity usage by 2013. The solar PV system will help VA meet that goal.

VA has also awarded Recovery Act funds to install a geothermal renewable energy project at the St. Cloud, Minn., VA Medical Center; a wind turbine at the Bourne, Mass., National Cemetery; solar PV systems at Albuquerque VA Medical Center, Tucson VA Medical Center, Calverton, N.Y., National Cemetery and San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, Calif.; and renewably fueled co-generation systems at the Togus, Maine, VA Medical Center and White River Junction (Vt.) VA Medical Center.

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